

Ponnapakkam Adikesavan Loka Bharathi et al.
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 8, lines 4-9 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, the present invention provides ~~an~~ a novel deep-sea bacterium deposited with National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, India, having an accession no NIOCC isolate #222, and ~~being~~ deposited on August 19, 2003 with the International depository [[.....]] Microbial Type Culture Collection and Gene Bank (MTCC), Institute of Microbial Technology, Sector 39-A, Chandigarh - 160 036, India under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty for the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purpose of Patent Procedure having accession no [[.....]] MTCC 5114, which has similar properties to known *Brevibacterium casei* isolated from the deep sea at 5000m depth waters of the Indian Ocean.